



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR  
**TIM CARPENTER**  
SENATOR – 3RD DISTRICT

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*Sen. Carpenter Proposes Amending Constitution to Protect Workers*

Madison – State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) has drafted a proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution to protect the rights of workers to collectively bargain wages, benefits, hours, and work conditions.

“The recent passage of a bill in Wisconsin that effectively eliminates collective bargaining for most public employees has put Wisconsinites through a traumatic period of our history. That bill is currently being litigated in the courts, and its passage has even given rise to unprecedented efforts to recall elected officials,” said Carpenter.

“A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found that 70% of folks believe that public employees should have the same rights to collectively bargain as private employees. Unfortunately, in Wisconsin such rights were only protected by statute, which meant that even though they had been in place for a half century, they could be eliminated by simply enacting another statute,” said Carpenter.

“I believe that all workers should have the ability to collectively bargain,” said Carpenter.

Senator Carpenter noted that a state like Florida, which provides constitutional guarantees for collective bargaining, was largely able to avoid the strife experienced in Wisconsin when Governor Walker surprised the state – and the nation – with his bill to eliminate most public employee bargaining rights.

“The people of Wisconsin should not have to wonder each time there is a change in the majority parties in our government whether the ability to collectively bargain will likewise change. Providing this constitutional guarantee will provide much needed stability to our political process, to our economy, and to our workers and their families,” said Carpenter.

Senator Carpenter sent this bill today to his legislative colleagues asking that they co-sponsor the proposed constitutional amendment.

Senator Carpenter’s press releases are available for review at  
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen03/news>

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